

**WRITTEN OPINION
SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB03/00872

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP - A - 1093097

D2: US - A - 5953700

Independent method claim 1 can be read on document D1 (see paragraphs 40, 45-47, 49, and 51; claims 1-3) and therefore is not new (Article 6 PCT).

The same objections apply to independent claims 44 and 45.

Document D2 (figure 1; column 2, line 16 to column 9, line 33) discloses the an audio coupler with the features of the audio coupler of independent claim 47. Therefore the claim is not new (Article 6 PCT).

Claim 46 refers to a nonexisting claim 49.